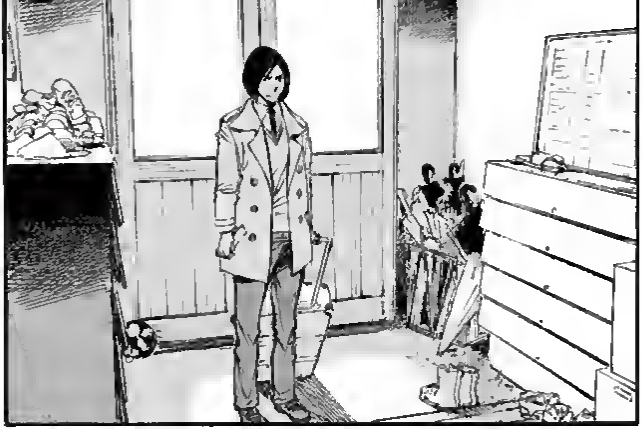
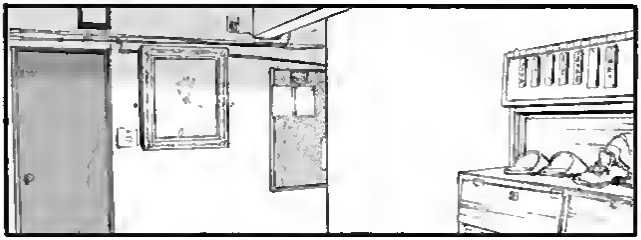
FILE 18: A Few Cherry Blossoms #2





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OH.
YOU'RE THE NEW GUY, RIGHT?
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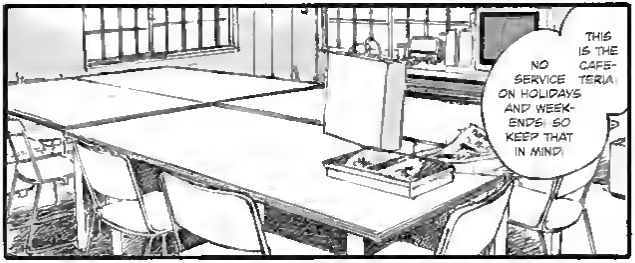
OKAY, I'M GOING HOME..
ハイ。
Ugh
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE DORM LEADER, HE'S SLEEPING AT THE CAMPUS FOR A PROJECT RIGHT NOW.
BUT I CAN SHOW YOU AROUND INSTEAD.
.....

COMES WITH A BED AND A DRESSER.

KEY'S INSIDE.
THIS IS YOUR ROOM.

IT'S SO SMALL!
YOU CAN BRING IN A DESK FROM ONE OF THE EMPTY ROOMS.


THIS IS THE CAFE-TERIA! NO SERVICE ON HOLIDAYS AND WEEK-ENDS! SO KEEP THAT IN MIND!

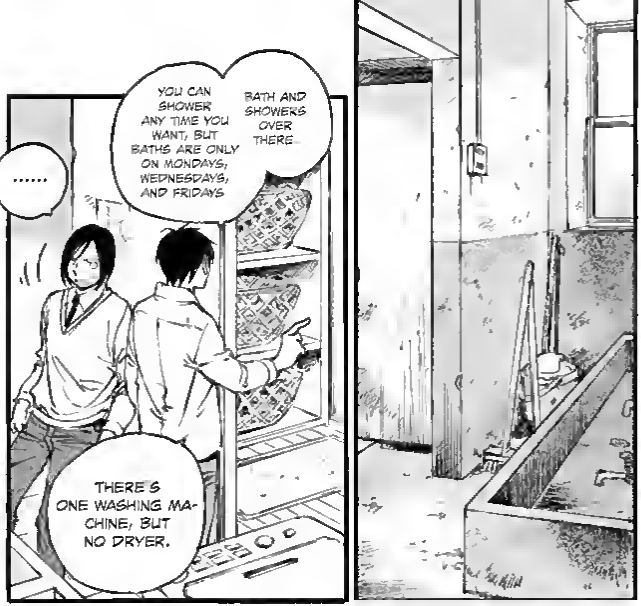
WHAT?
MAAM?
THIS IS TSUWA-BUKI. HE'LL BE STAYING WITH US FROM TODAY

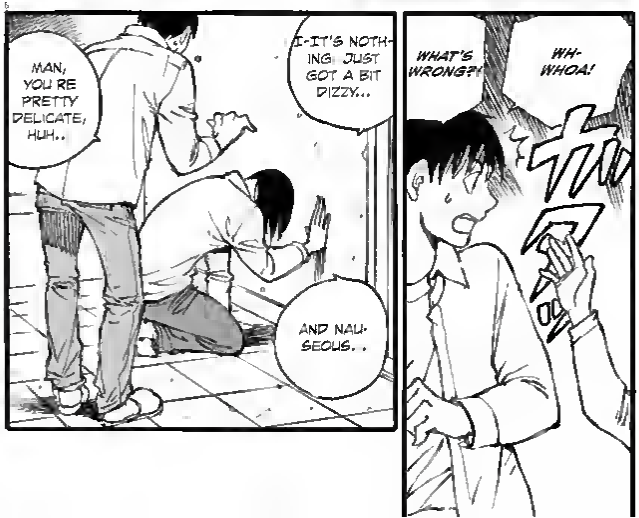
DINNER'S FROM SIX TO EIGHT!
BREAK-FAST IS FROM SEVEN TO NINE!
DON'T BE LATE!
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?!
SHE'S SCARY.
ひぃ?
DON'T LET HER GET TO YOU
SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT WHEN SHE'S DOING FOOD PREP.
ドキドキ
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE THAT BEFORE.

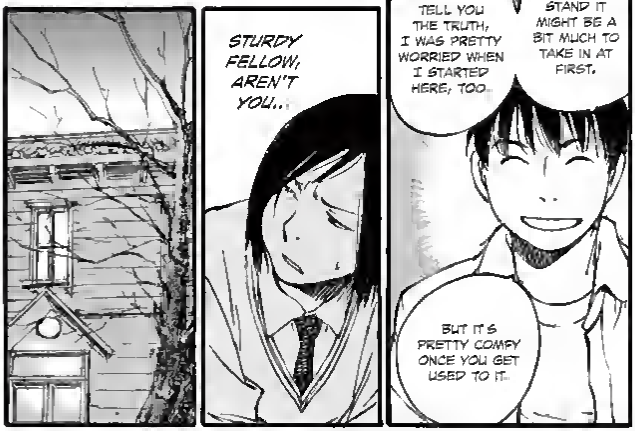
OH, FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M HIRATA.
I'M A SECOND YEAR AT THE COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
I'M A SECOND YEAR TOO. I'M MAJORING IN ARCHITECTURE AT YNU

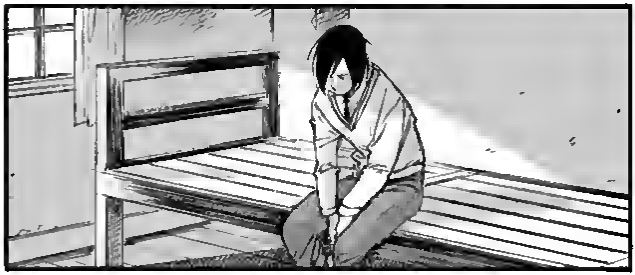
THIS IS THE REC ROOM.
THERE'S EVEN A GAME CONSOLE OR TWO HERE.

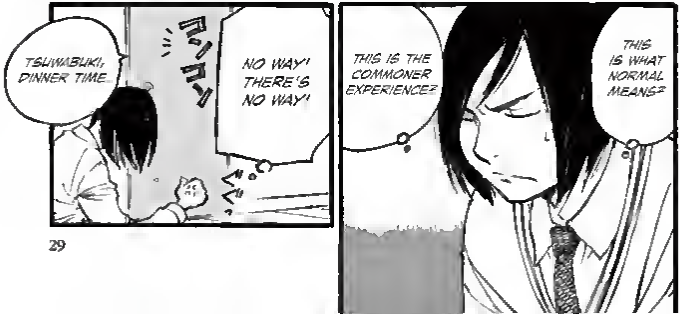
HERE'S THE BATHROOM.


BATH AND SHOWERS OVER THERE...
YOU CAN SHOWER ANY TIME YOU WANT, BUT BATHS ARE ONLY ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, AND FRIDAYS
.....
THERE'S ONE WASHING MACHINE, BUT NO DRYER.


I-IT'S NOTHING. JUST GOT A BIT DIZZY...
MAN, YOU'RE PRETTY DELICATE, HUH..
AND NAUSEOUS..
WHAT'S WRONG?!
WH-WHOA!


I CAN UNDERSTAND IT MIGHT BE A BIT MUCH TO TAKE IN AT FIRST.
TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WAS PRETTY WORRIED WHEN I STARTED HERE, TOO.
BUT IT'S PRETTY COMFY ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT.
STURDY FELLOW, AREN'T YOU...




THIS IS WHAT NORMAL MEANS?
THIS IS THE COMMONER EXPERIENCE?
NO WAY! THERE'S NO WAY!
TSUWABUKI, DINNER TIME

HELLO...
NOBE.
NICE TO MEETCHA. I'M SEJIMA.
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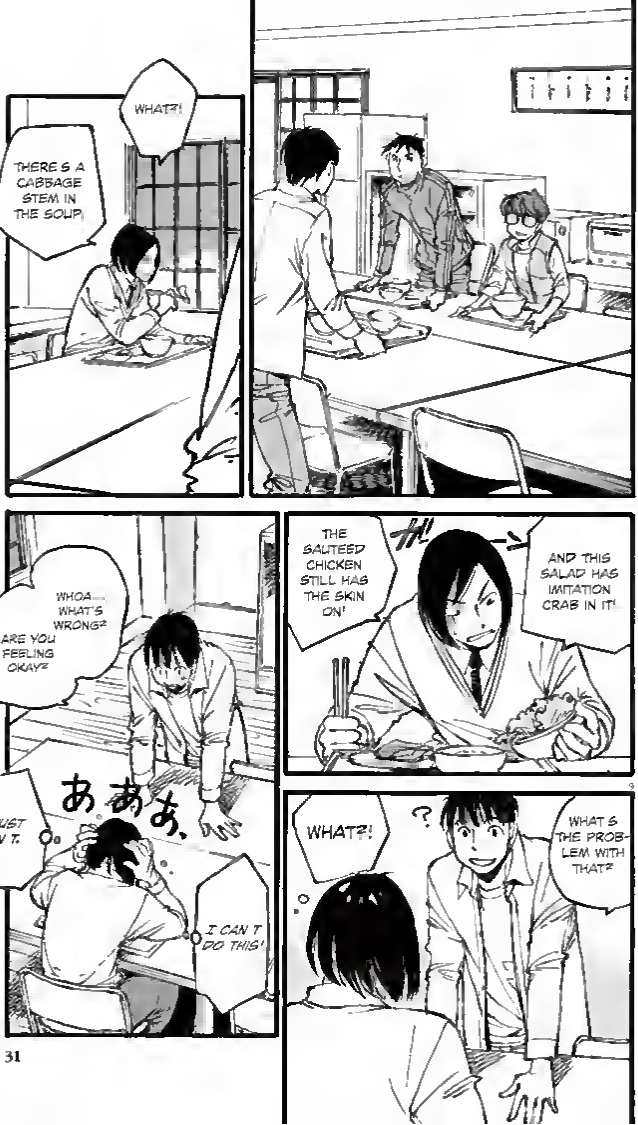
YOU AREN'T GOING TO LOCK YOUR DOORS?
NAH.
NOTHING WORTH STEALING, HAH

.....
what free spirits...


WHAT?!
THERE'S A CABBAGE STEM IN THE SOUP!
THE SAUTEED CHICKEN STILL HAS THE SKIN ON!
AND THIS SALAD HAS IMITATION CRAB IN IT!
WHOA... WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
あああ
I JUST CAN'T.
I CAN'T DO THIS!
WHAT?!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THAT?

HIKARI. NISHIKI. KOMA-CHI...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?
I KNOW YOU MUST ALL BE LONELY WITH ME GONE...
Haaah
TSUWABUKI, GOT A MOMENT?
HMM?
OH, NOT I WAS MUCH JUST CHECKING ON YOU...
HUH? WHY?
IT FELT LIKE YOU WERE HAVING TROUBLE ADJUSTING

OH, YOU HAVEN'T UNPACKED YET?
YEAH...
LESS HASSLE WHEN I BREAK AND MAKE A RUN FOR IT.
YOU SAY THAT LIKE YOU'D EXPECT ANYONE TO ADJUST RIGHT AWAY.
CAN I COME IN?
IF YOU REALLY CAN'T BEAR IT, THEN IT'S BEST TO JUST LEAVE EARLY.
HE DIDN'T LIKE IT HERE, BUT HE KEPT IT ALL INSIDE UNTIL HE HAD A BREAK DOWN AND LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM
LAST YEAR A GUY MOVED IN AROUND THE SAME TIME I DID
IN THE END HE LEFT SCHOOL ALTOGETHER AND WENT BACK HOME TO THE COUNTRY
ANYWAY, I CAN TELL YOU'RE PRETTY RICH, RIGHT? YOU'RE NOT USED TO CONDITIONS LIKE THIS.
!

YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M FROM A WEALTHY HOUSEHOLD!
BUT DON'T THINK THAT MAKES ME WEAK
I MIGHT HAVE HIGH STANDARDS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME FRAIL.
HOLD ON, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT...
THIS IS A CRISIS TO YOU, HUH.
I'VE AN EXCELLENT HEAD FOR DEALING WITH CRISES AS WELL!
I'M SORRY IF IT CAME OFF THAT WAY.
GOOD NIGHT, TSUWABUKI.
WELL, WHATEVER, THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
IF ANYTHING'S BOTHERING YOU, MY DOOR'S ALWAYS OPEN.

I JUST MADE IT SO I CAN'T LEAVE EVEN IF I WANTED...
DAMN IT..
PROFESSOR TAKAHASHI GAVE ME A FRAGMENT OF GERARD TILE.
LOOK, TOUYA!

IT'S A FRENCH-STYLE TILE MADE IN YOKOHAMA BACK DURING THE MEIJI REVOLUTION.
ALFRED GERARD SET UP A FACTORY TO MANUFACTURE THEM IN YAMANOTE
You're sparkling
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?

AAAH.. SPRING VACATION'S ALMOST HERE, RIGHT AFTER EXAMS...
MAYBE I'LL GET A PART TIME JOB
IT'S WAY TOO LONG, THOUGH.

LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF PREHISTORIC RELIC TO ME...
WELL, IT'S TRUE IT WAS DUG UP...

THIS IS PROBABLY ENGLISH, WHICH MEANS THIS TILE IS A TYPE III.
SEE THE SLIGHT INSCRIPTION INDENTS HERE?
HMM...

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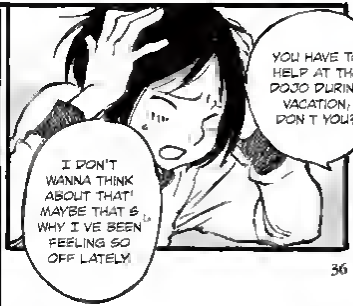
SORT OF.
MMMM...
SOMETHING THE MATTER?


YOU HAVE TO HELP AT THE DOJO DURING VACATION, DON'T YOU?
I DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT THAT! MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN FEELING SO OFF LATELY.

I'VE BEEN FEELING KIND OF BAD AROUND HERE LATELY.
LIKE THERE'S SOME SORT OF BLOCKAGE, ALMOST?
THAT'S HEARTBURN.
AND THE REASON FOR THAT IS BECAUSE OF THESE NEW CROQUETTES THE CAFETERIA HAS PUT ON THE MENU!
LARI.
THEY'RE TOO GOOD
I HAVE TO HAVE THEM EVERY DAY!

I'VE GAINED TWO KILOGRAMS ALREADY...
WHOA! I NEVER REALIZED IT BUT I'VE BEEN GETTING THEM TOO!

NO WAY, THIS IS MINE
The fearsome power of the Japanese croquette!
HERE. LET ME TAKE CARE OF THAT FOR YOU, THEN.

TSUWABUKI, YOU CLEANED THIS UP ALL BY YOURSELF?!
Hmph

I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU PEOPLE.
I JUST COULDN'T BEAR IT MYSELF.
THERE'S A CLEANING SCHEDULE RIGHT HERE, BUT YOU'VE ALL BEEN SLACKING!
YOU'RE AMAZING! THANKS SO MUCH!
Wow, even the bathtub's clean.

OH, YOU'RE FINALLY HERE.
YOU'RE TSUWABUKI, THEN?
WELL, YOU'RE CERTAINLY MAKING YOUR MARK HERE.
THERE ARE SEPARATE PRODUCTS MEANT FOR EACH!
AND BESIDES, WHO USES THE SAME CLEANER FOR THE BATHS AND THE TOILETS?!
Don't you watch commercials?!

I'M TAKING GRAD COURSES AT THE INDUSTRIAL UNIVERSITY. I'VE BEEN HERE MORE OR LESS FOREVER...
YOUR HOME IS IN THE CITY, RIGHT?
YES, BUT MY FATHER DECIDED TO PUT ME HERE AFTER HEARING THERE WAS A VACANCY.

AN OLD MAN?
HE CAN HEAR YOU.
WOW
I'M STILL IN MY TWENTIES...

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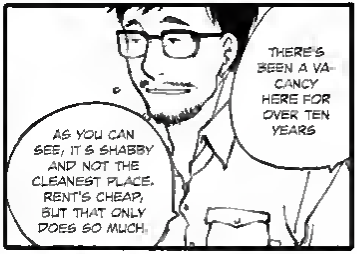
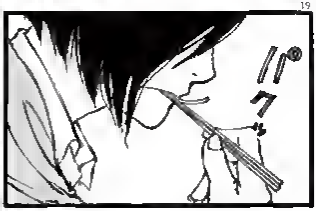
YAKISOBA'S READY!


THERE'S BEEN A VACANCY HERE FOR OVER TEN YEARS
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S SHABBY AND NOT THE CLEANEST PLACE. RENT'S CHEAP, BUT THAT ONLY DOES SO MUCH.

THE PEOPLE LIVING HERE HAVE UNIQUE TASTES, THEN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT, BUT SURE.

I SAW YOU HAD LEFTOVERS TODAY, TOO.
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.
CAFETERIA FOOD'S JUST NOT ENOUGH SOMETIMES.
OH, GREAT!
I MADE SOME FOR YOU TOO.
What're you staring at me for
.....
This doesn't look like the ya-kisoba I know
SORRY, WE'RE A BIT SHORT ON INGREDIENTS.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THIS IS...
REALLY GOOD..
GLAD YOU LIKE IT.
MAN THIS IS REALLY SOMETHING
HOW D YOU MAKE IT?
THE NOODLES RE STOREBOUGHT. I JUST ADDED SOME SAUCE FROM BACK HOME.
MY PARENTS RUN A RESTAURANT IN NIIGATA, AND THEY MAKE ALL THE SAUCES FROM SCRATCH.
SURE, MAYBE...
BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN THIS TASTE!
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SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD.
WHAT THE HELL! MAKE SOME FOR US, TOO!